

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (New) A method for improving a visibility in a motor vehicle, comprising:
illuminating an area by at least one light source of the motor vehicle;
producing a sensor signal by at least one infrared sensor of the motor vehicle when a person is situated in the area illuminated by the light source; and
controlling the light source dependent on the sensor signal.
12. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the at least one light source includes at least one of (a) a headlamp that illuminates at least in a near-infrared wavelength range, (b) a laser and (c) at least one laser diode that emits light at least in the near-infrared wavelength range.
13. (New) The method according to claim 11, further comprising producing sensor signals by at least one of (a) at least one ultrasound sensor, (b) at least one radar sensor that operates in at least one of the following wavelength ranges: 24GHz and 77GHz, and (c) at least one video sensor.
14. (New) The method according to claim 11, further comprising at least one of deactivating and activating the light source dependent on the sensor signal.
15. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the light source is controlled dependent on the sensor signal in such a way that at least one of a spatial and temporal intensity of light of the light source assumes a value that is not dangerous to persons.
16. (New) The method according to claim 11, further comprising warning at least one present person by at least one of an acoustic and optical warning signal.

17. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the sensor signal for controlling the light source is derived from the signal of the infrared sensor and from a signal of at least one additional sensor.

18. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the infrared sensor is constructed in such a way that its detection area completely includes a beam of the light source, and its detection range is greater than a distance from the light source that results in eye damage.

19. (New) A device for improving a visibility in a motor vehicle, comprising:

at least one light source of the motor vehicle, the light source illuminating an area of illumination;

at least one infrared sensor of the motor vehicle, the sensor producing a sensor signal when a person is situated in the area illuminated by the light source; and

at least one control unit controlling the light source as a function of the sensor signal.

20. (New) The device according to claim 19, wherein the device is used in a night vision system in the motor vehicle.